

ANCIENT AND MODERN GOLF

By Jack Hoag

Is our grand old Scottish game of golf of Dutch origin? There seems to be some foundation for thinking so, for the name "golf" might well have been derived from the Dutch word "klof," meaning a club and the Dutch painters of a very early period produced pictures of men playing what could well have been an early form of golf many years before the game was known in Scotland. There is a book in the British Museum which was made at Bruges in the beginning of the sixteenth century which has illustration of three men playing with clubs which either had heads of steel or were faced with steel and which they were using in much the same manner as a golfer plays today.

Further evidence that the game may have originated in Holland can be found in the act of James I of England, when in the year 1618 he prohibited the importation of golf balls from Holland. The act read: "Na small quantitie of gold and silver is transported zierly out of his Hienes Kingdome of Scotland for the purchase of goff bas." The exact date when the game was first played in Scotland is not known, but we have reason to think that it was much earlier than the date given in the records, for in 1457 "the game was so popular that it interfered with the practice of archery," and in March, 1457, the Scottish parliament decree "that wapinshawingis be halden be the Lordis and Baronis spiritual and temporal four times in the zierl and that fute ball and golf be utterly cryit down and nocht usit."

KING JAMES IV COULDN'T STOP IT.

Another edict was issued against the game in May, 1471, but it evidently did not stop the play, for a more drastic measure was enacted in 1491, which read: "Fute ball and golf forbidden. Item, it is statut and ordained that in na place of he relm there be usit fute ball, golfe or uther sik unprofitable sportis." This act was during the reign of James IV of Scotland, but he failed to observe it himself, for there is ample proof that he played often after the act was passed.

In 1592 the city council of Edinburgh, Scotland, attempted to stop the play on the Sabbath day, and the following year the edict was modified so as to read, "in the time of sermons." Although the name of James IV is the first of the kings to formally appear on the records, it is believed that some of the earlier monarchs indulged in the game. James V was very partial to it and his daughter, Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots, played often and, while it is hard to imagine her taking a full swing in the costume of the period, it was said that she was seen on the links only a few days after that little affair at Kirk o' Fields, when her husband, Lord Darnley, was blown up with gun powder.

MONUMENT TO JAMES II IN EDINBURGH

There is a monument which still stands in Edinburgh which attests that James II as a golf enthusiast. When he was Duke of York, after the Restoration in 1660, he was sent to Scotland as a com-

missioner of the king to the Scottish parliament and while there two English noblemen challenged him to a game of golf, allowing him to select any Scotch ally he might choose. His partner was John Paterson, a shoemaker, and the stakes were high. With the shoemaker's aid he had little trouble in winning and he divided the stakes with his partner. Paterson took his share and built himself the "Golfers' Land" as it is still called, at 77 Canongate.

In 1834 William IV conferred on the St. Andrews Golf Club the right of being styled, "The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews," and he presented the club with a gold medal to be challenged and played for. It was in 1864 that the Westward-Ho Club was organized and since that date the game has increased in popularity until it has become the leading sport of Great Britain today.

AMERICAN GOLF.

There is considerable controversy about when and where golf was first played in America and there is no really authentic proof to be had. Humor states that the game was played in a desultory manner in Montreal, Canada, in 1824 and again in the late sixties when some golfers were known to have practiced the game on a common called Logan's farm, but which now forms a part of La-Fontaine Park. Traditional so states that golf was played in Quebec about the same time but the chances are that the game was played in Canada at a far earlier date.

During the early days of the Hudson Bay Company its officers were almost entirely Scotchmen, many of whom were undoubtedly golfers and it is not at all unreasonable to assume that some of these men brought their golf clubs from the old world with them and they undoubtedly continued to play under the primitive conditions which they encountered at the various Hudson Bay posts. It is claimed by authorities that golf was played in South Carolina in 1794 and that a club once existed in Georgia in 1811, but there is little to prove their contention and the first really authentic record of a golf club in the United States was on November 14, 1888, when several kindred spirits met at the home of the late John Reid in Yonkers, N. Y. and organized the St. Andrews Golf Club. The club first leased and then purchased the property near Yonkers, which it now occupies, and it has always maintained a leading position among the golf clubs of the east.

CANADA ANTEDATES U. S.

Almost fifteen years previous to the organization of the St. Andrews Golf Club a meeting was held in the offices of Sidey Bros., Common Street, Montreal, which was presided over by Alex Dennistoun, and with the assistance of W. M. Ramsay and D. D. Sidey, the Montreal Golf Club was organized. The date of the meeting, to be exact, was November 4, 1873, and the club leased sufficient ground for a nine-hole course at Fletcher's Field which was located on the northeast slope of Mount Royal.

There were no expensive architects in those days and the original course was laid out by the members and maintain-

ed by the club at trifling expense. In 1881, Mr. Sidey brought William Davis, a professional golfer from Hoylake, England, back with him, but Davis did not like Montreal and returned home after spending one season with the Montreal club. Davis returned to the Montreal Golf Club again in 1889 and eventually left there for the States where he laid out the original Shinnecock Hills Club. Johnny Cuhbert came to the United States in 1891 to teach golf and like his predecessor he found the country little to his liking and returned home after a season spent in the vicinity of New York.

WONDERFUL DEVELOPMENT

It is impossible to follow the game through all the changes which have taken place in the last forty years. Its advancement has been so rapid that it is almost beyond belief and no other sport in history can approach golf's record. It is a far cry from the courses of those early days to the modern country club with its wonderful turf, clever hazards, and magnificent greens, and, as the game has developed, the number of players has increased until there are more golfers today than there are devotees of any other sport.

No article of this nature would be complete without some reference to the wonderful manner in which our golf architects have encountered and conquered the new conditions they were called upon to face and nothing demonstrates this more perfectly than the work which Donald Ross has done at Pinehurst. In the four courses which are in daily use by the members during the Pinehurst season, one finds golf to suit the game of every player. The scale ranges from the interesting, but fairly easy No. 1 course which is extremely popular with the ladies and is the scene of many a mixed foursome, right through the various degrees of golf to the No. 3 course, which is a wonderful test of championship golf.

A COURSE FOR EVERY MOOD

Here at Pinehurst you find a course for every mood, we remember a delightful round on the No. 1 course one morning early last spring. We teed off with Fred Helmer of Midlothian; Dr. Pritchard of Battle Creek, and John R. Towle of Olympia Fields. The air was filled with the scent of the pines and we strolled down the fairways and past the cleverest of hazards while the sun was shining on the water and the air carried that drowsy touch of spring, which made even golf an effort. The hustle and bustle of the business world seemed thousands of miles away and one was content just to live and breath close to nature's heart.

In the afternoon we paired with W. B. Fitch of Exmoor, against a couple of clever Boston players and fought out one of the hardest matches of the season over the No. 3 course. Nature was to be found here in abundance, but we were in no mood to enjoy scenic effects and Fitch and the writer cussed Ross's hazards and battled with our opponents over the full route only to loose by a single point on the eighteenth green. Such is the modern golf of today and with the game rushing onward one hesitates to prophesy what the golf of the future will be.

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